CREATING A CULTURE OF HEALTH IN APPALACHIA DISPARITIES AND BRIGHT SPOTS

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Key Findings APPALACHIAN NORTH CAROLINA

MORTALITY

Heart Disease Deaths

Appalachian North Carolina's heart disease mortality rate is 5 percent lower than the national rate and 2 percent lower than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Cancer Deaths

Appalachian North Carolina's cancer mortality rate is
4 percent higher than the national rate and the same as the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Deaths

• Appalachian North Carolina's COPD mortality rate is 26 percent higher than the national rate and 21 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Injury Deaths

• Appalachian North Carolina's injury mortality rate is 29 percent higher than the national rate and 20 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Stroke Deaths

• Appalachian North Carolina's stroke mortality rate is 13 percent higher than the national rate and 3 percent lower than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Diabetes Deaths

• Appalachian North Carolina's diabetes mortality rate is 8 percent lower than the national rate and 14 percent lower than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Years of Potential Life Lost

• Appalachian North Carolina's YPLL rate is 15 percent higher than the national rate and 6 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

MORBIDITY

Physically Unhealthy Days

The average adult in Appalachian North Carolina reports feeling physically unhealthy 8 percent more often than the average American and 3 percent more often than the average adult in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Mentally Unhealthy Days

The average adult in Appalachian North Carolina reports feeling mentally unhealthy 6 percent more often than the average American and 3 percent more often than the average adult in non-Appalachian North Carolina.



HIV Prevalence

Appalachian North Carolina's HIV rate is 47 percent lower than the national rate and 47 percent lower than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Diabetes Prevalence

The prevalence of diabetes in Appalachian North Carolina is 11.3 percent, a mark higher than the 9.8 percent experienced by the nation as a whole, and the 10.9 percent experienced in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Obesity Prevalence

The prevalence of adult obesity is 27.7 percent in Appalachian North Carolina, a mark slightly higher than the 27.4 percent experienced in the nation as a whole, and lower than the 29.4 percent experienced in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Depression Prevalence

The prevalence of depression among fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries in Appalachian North Carolina is 17.3 percent, compared to 15.4 percent for the United States as a whole and 15.2 percent for non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Suicide Incidence

The suicide rate in Appalachian North Carolina is 28 percent higher than the national rate, and 34 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Excessive Drinking

The percentage of adults reporting excessive drinking in Appalachian North Carolina (14.5 percent) is lower than in the nation as a whole (17.7 percent), and lower than the percentage in non-Appalachian North Carolina (15.5).

Poisoning Deaths

The poisoning mortality rate in Appalachian North Carolina is 38 percent higher than the national rate, and 53 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Opioid Prescription Rates

Of all Medicare prescription claims in Appalachian North Carolina, 6.0 percent are for opioids, compared to 5.3 percent in the United States as a whole, and 5.6 percent in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

CHILD HEALTH

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is 25 percent higher in Appalachian North Carolina than in the nation as a whole, and 3 percent higher than in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Low Birth Weight Incidence

The incidence of low birth weight in Appalachian North Carolina is 8.6 percent of all newborns, a higher percentage than the national average of 8.1 percent, but lower than the non-Appalachian North Carolina average of 9.1 percent.

Teen Birth Rate

The teen birth rate in Appalachian North Carolina is 16 percent higher than the national rate and 2 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Average Travel Time to Work

The average travel time to work in Appalachian North Carolina is 22.5 minutes, which is lower than the national average of 25.7 minutes, and lower than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina of 24.0 minutes.

Grocery Store Availability

There are 10 percent fewer grocery stores per 1,000 population in Appalachian North Carolina than in the United States as a whole, and the same as in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Student-Teacher Ratio

Appalachian North Carolina's student-teacher ratio is 14.4, which is a lower (better) ratio than the national average of 16.5, and a lower (better) ratio than the non-Appalachian North Carolina average of 15.2.

LIFESTYLE

Physical Inactivity

In Appalachian North Carolina, 25.9 percent of people report being physically inactive, a figure higher than the 23.1 percent reported in the United States as a whole and the 24.8 percent reported in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Smoking

In Appalachian North Carolina, 18.7 percent of all adults report being cigarette smokers, a figure higher than the 16.3 percent at the national level, and the 18.5 percent in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Chlamydia Rate

Chlamydia incidence in Appalachian North Carolina is 24 percent lower than the national average, and 37 percent lower than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Primary Care Physicians

The supply of primary care physicians per 100,000 population in Appalachian North Carolina is 5 percent higher than the national average, and 16 percent higher than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Mental Health Providers

The supply of mental health providers per 100,000 population in Appalachian North Carolina is 20 percent higher than the national average, and 10 percent higher than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Specialty Physicians

The supply of specialty physicians per 100,000 population in Appalachian North Carolina is 4 percent lower than the national average, and 4 percent higher than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Dentists

The supply of dentists per 100,000 population in Appalachian North Carolina is 29 percent lower than the national average, and 14 percent lower than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Uninsured Population

The percentage of the population under age 65 that is uninsured in Appalachian North Carolina is 19.5 percent, which is higher (worse) than the national average of 16.8 percent, and the non-Appalachian North Carolina average of 17.9 percent.

Heart Disease Hospitalizations

 Hospitalization rates for heart disease in Appalachian North Carolina are 3 percent lower than the national average, and 11 percent lower than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Hospitalizations

Hospitalization rates for COPD in Appalachian North Carolina are 7 percent higher than the national average, and 8 percent higher than the average in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

QUALITY OF CARE

Electronic Prescribing

Electronic prescribing is more common in Appalachian North Carolina (76.3 percent of prescriptions) than in the nation as a whole (65.8 percent), and more common than in non-Appalachian North Carolina (72.8 percent of prescriptions).

Mammogram Screenings

The percentage of Medicare-covered women undergoing mammogram screenings in Appalachian North Carolina is higher than the percentage at the national level. In Appalachian North Carolina, 67.0 percent of Medicare-covered women ages 67 to 69 have had a recent mammogram, compared to the 62.1 percent reported in the nation as a whole, and the 68.3 percent in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Diabetes Monitoring

Diabetes monitoring is higher among Medicare patients in Appalachian North Carolina (88.8 percent) than among Medicare patients in the United States as a whole (84.7 percent), but slightly lower than among Medicare patients in non-Appalachian North Carolina (89.4 percent).

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Median Household Income

The median household income in Appalachian North Carolina is 25 percent less than the national median, and 14 percent less than the median income in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Poverty

The household poverty rate is 18.2 percent in Appalachian North Carolina, a figure higher than the national rate of 15.6 percent, and higher than the 17.1 percent in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Disability

The percentage of people receiving disability benefits is higher in Appalachian North Carolina (6.2 percent) than in the United States as a whole (5.1 percent) and in non-Appalachian North Carolina (5.5 percent).

Education

In Appalachian North Carolina, 59.3 percent of adults ages 25 to 44 have some type of postsecondary education, compared to the 63.3 percent in the nation as a whole and the 64.6 percent in non-Appalachian North Carolina.

Social Associations

The social association rate in Appalachian North Carolina is 47 percent higher than the rate found in the nation as a whole, and 23 percent higher than the rate in non-Appalachian North Carolina.